

Alexandria Gazette.

TUESDAY EVENING, DEC. 24 1901

THE NIGHT BEFORE CHRISTMAS.

'Twas the night before Christmas, when all through the house

Not a creature was stirring, not even a mouse;

The stockings were hung by the chimney with care,

In hopes that St. Nicholas soon would be there;

The children were nestled all snug in their beds,

While visions of sugar-plums danced in their heads;

And mamma in her 'kerchief, and I in my cap,

Had just settled our brains for a long winter's nap—

When out on the lawn there arose such a clatter,

I sprang from the bed to see what was the matter.

Away to the window I flew like a flash,

Tore open the shutters and threw up the shades.

The moon on the breast of the new-fallen snow,

Gave the lustre of mid-day to objects below,

When, what to my wondering eyes should appear,

Saw a miniature sleigh, and eight tiny reindeer,

With a little old driver so lively and quick,

I knew in a moment it must be St. Nick.

More rapid than eagles his coursers they came,

And he whistled and shouted and called them by name:

'Now, dasher! now, Dancer! now, Prancer,

and Vixen! On Comet! on Cupid! on Dunder,

and Blitzen! To the top of the porch! to the top of the wall!

Now, dash away! dash away! dash away all!

As dry leaves that before the wild hurricane fly,

When they meet with an obstacle, mount to the sky,

So up to the house-top the coursers they flew,

With the sleigh full of toys, and St. Nicholas, too—

And then, in a twinkling, I heard on the roof

The prancing and pawing of each little hoof.

As I drew in my head, and was turning around,

Down the chimney St. Nicholas came with a bound.

He was dressed all in fur, from his head to his foot,

And his clothes were all tarnished with ashes and soot;

A bundle of toys he had slung on his back,

And he looked like a peddler just opening his pack.

His eyes—how they twinkled; his dimples—how merry!

His cheeks—how they blushed, and his nose like a cherry!

His droll little mouth was drawn up like a bow,

And the board of his chin was as white as the snow.

The stump of a pipe he held tight in his teeth,

And the smoke it encircled his head like a wreath;

He had a broad face and a little round belly,

That shook when he laughed like a bowl full of jelly.

He was chubby and plump, a right jolly old elf,

And I laughed when I saw him, in spite of myself.

A wink of his eye and a twist of his head,

Soon gave me to know I had nothing to dread;

He spoke not a word, but went straight to his work,

And filled all the stockings, then turned with a jerk,

And laying his finger aside of his nose,

He sprang to his sleigh, to his team gave a whistle,

And away they all flew like the down of a thistle.

But I heard him exclaim, ere he drove out of sight,

'Happy Christmas to all and to all a Good-night.'

WEDDED THROUGH A DARE.—Dr. E. C. Walden, of St. Louis, son of Bishop E. C. Walden, of Cincinnati, dared a woman to marry him on Saturday at St. Louis, and is a benedict. Miss Beatrice Sims would not take a dare.

It all arose from jutting remarks at the supper table over a young couple who had just been married. Suddenly Dr. Walden said:

'I'd get married if I could find somebody to take me,' at the same time looking interrogatively at Miss Sims.

'How would I do?' asked Miss Sims.

'I dare you to accept,' was the doctor's response.

'I never take a dare,' said Miss Sims quickly. 'Name the day; I'll give you the privilege.'

'The sooner the better,' replied Walden.

One of the guests at the table offered to bet \$20 that the match would never take place.

'Taken,' said Miss Sims. Another guest stated that he would pay for the wedding supper at the best restaurant in the city.

Sunday the joking continued, while Dr. Walden went quietly ahead and prepared for the ceremony. Yesterday Dr. Walden and several friends went to the office of C. H. Brooks, where they were later joined by a clergyman, Miss Sims, and a friend, and the knot was tied.

Dr. Bull's Baby Syrup for teething babies. Full-size bottle, 10 cents. Cures Wind Colic, Diarrhea, Loss of Sleep, Griping Pains, Sour Stomach, Fever, Cholera Infantum. Dr. Bull's Baby Syrup soothes the digestion and soothes the baby. Sold by Richard Gibson and all druggists.

Of Benefit to You.

D. S. Mitchell, Fulford, Md.: "During a long illness I was troubled with bed sores, was advised to try Dr. Williams' Pink Pills and was cured with wonderful results. I was perfectly cured. It is the best salve on the market." Sure cure for piles, sores, burns. Beware of counterfeits. For sale by E. S. Leadbeater & Sons.

Christmas Holiday Excursion Rates.

On account of the Christmas holidays, the Washington-Southern Railway Co. will sell special excursion tickets to Richmond, Va., and intermediate points at a fare and a third for the round trip. Tickets on sale December 21st to 25th inclusive, also December 30th and 31st and January 1st. Good going only on each date, and for continuous passage in each direction, limited to return until January 3, 1902, inclusive. Continuous passage in each direction.

W. P. TAYLOR, Traffic Manager.

Holiday Excursion Rates to Points South.

The Washington-Southern Railway Company will sell special excursion tickets to points south via Richmond, and Atlantic Coast Line or Southern Railway at rate of a fare and a third for the round trip. Tickets on sale December 23rd, 24th, 25th, 30th, 31st and January 1st, limited to return until January 3rd, 1902, inclusive. Continuous passage in each direction.

W. P. TAYLOR, Traffic Manager.

Convention Educational Association Columbia, S. C., December 26-29.

On account of the above the Southern Railway will give tickets to Charleston, S. C., and return at greatly reduced rates. For full information, tickets, etc., call on nearest ticket agent.

MEDICINAL

KODOL

Dyspepsia Cure

Digests what you Eat

It can't help but do you good

When the stomach is diseased, all the other organs suffer. That is why fatal diseases of the heart, liver, kidneys and lungs are so often the direct result of indigestion and other stomach troubles.

The use of KODOL DYSPEPSIA CURE, which digests what you eat, because it contains all the natural digestants, gives the stomach perfect rest while allowing you to eat all the good food you want. It never fails to cure the worst forms of stomach trouble.

Prepared by E. S. Leadbeater & Sons, Chicago. The bottle contains 1/2 pint, enough for 100 meals.

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